Prime Minister's Visits

2640. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Prime Minister met Heads of Germany, China and Russia during his visit abroad during May-June this year;

(b) if so, the details of the subject matters discussed and their response thereto; and

(c) what has been their stand on the cross border terrorism by Pakistan and the Kashmir issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Prime Minister had bilateral meetings with Mr. Gerhard Schroedar, German Chancellor on 28th May, 2003, in Berlin, Mr. Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation on 30 May, 2003 in St. Petersburg and with Mr. Hu Jintao, President of the People's Republic of China on May 31,2003 in St. Petersburg;

(b) During his visit to Germany, PM held wide ranging discussions with the German leadership on bilateral relations and on regional and international issues of mutual interest.

In his meeting with President Putin, Prime Minister discussed issues of bilateral, regional and international interest. The two leaders agreed that in acordance with the strategic partnership between the two countries, the extensive consultations between them should be continued. President Putin reiterated Russia's commitment to further deepen defence relations with India. The two leaders agreed that there should a UN role in Iraq.

In the meeting with President Jintao, Prime Minister's then forthcoming visit to China, global peace, stability, bilateral relations, situation in Iraq, role of the UN and PM's initiative with respect to Pakistan were discussed. Both leaders agreed that China and India shouldered major responsibility for promoting world peace and stability, authoity of the UN needed to be further strengthened and our Missions to UN should stay in touch regarding this and on Iraq. President Hu expressed confidence that PM's visit to China would promote constructive and

cooperative partnership. PM underlined the need for developing bilateral relations based on the Panchsheel and mutual sensitivity to each other's concerns to resolve our differences.

(c) His interlocutors in Germany were sensitized to our concerns on the need for an immediate cessation of cross-border terrorism. There was unanimous appreciation for Prime Minister's peace initiative.

Russia has repeatedly stated that cross-border terrorism should be ended and that the Kashmir issue should be settled bilaterally between India and Pakistan in accordance with the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration.

Chinese President complimented and congratulated the Prime Minister of India on his peace initiative with respect to Pakistan. He said that the Chinese government supported any initiative to ease the situation and hoped that India and Pakistan would resolve their differences through dialogue and by peaceful means to make the situation in South Asia peaceful.

Rehabilitation Work in Iraq by Indian Companies

2641. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian companies have received signals from Iraq for its post war development and rehabilitation;

(b) the names of Government and private Companies which have been doing work in the past in Iraq; and

(c) the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Indian business delegations, under apex trade bodies, have visited Iraq to explore opportunities of securing contracts for trading and projects in Iraq's post-war development and rehabilitation. While there are indications of interest in Indian participation, the results of such contacts may appear only in the future.

(b) and (c) A large number of Government and private companies woked on civil, mechanical and electrical construction contracts in Iraq between 1978 and 1990, including ONGC, RITES, IRCON, NBCC, UPSBC, EIL, L&T, Jai Prakash Industries and several others.